

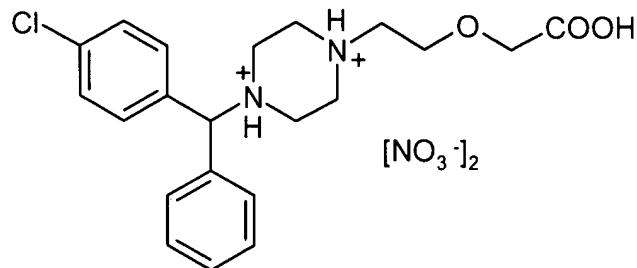
**REMARKS**

Claims 12-36 are pending. By this amendment, claim 12 is amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. In particular, support for the amendments to claim 12 can be found in the specification, from the original international application PCT/EP99/05171, in the fourth paragraph on page 8. No new matter is added.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I: claims 12-21.

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of Group II, claims 22-36, upon allowance of the claims of Group I, as the inventions "are related as product and process of use" as indicated by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action. MPEP § 821.04 states that "if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined." Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims.

In response to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the dinitrate salt of cetirizine, which has following formula:



Applicants submit that present claims 12-36 read on the elected species.

In view of the Applicants' above elections, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement and the Election of Species Requirement have been satisfied. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination of the pending claims on the merits.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Docket No. 026220-00043.

Respectfully submitted,

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